

REMARKS

Claims 31 - 49 are currently pending in the application and new claims 50 - 52 have been added. Claims 51 and 52 are added with the present submission. Claims 1-30 have been canceled in previous amendments.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 101

In this section of the Final official action, Claims 31 - 49 were rejected under 35 USC 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 31 to 49 were amended in the response filed December 8, 2004 to be directed to being practiced as part of a control system for a *manufacturing* process, and furthermore to produce a result which includes some kind of control of the manufacturing process.

A manufacturing process is believed to be a statutory process since it necessarily exists in the outside world and affects machines and materials in the outside world.

Claims 51 and 52 are directed specifically to a semiconductor manufacturing process and explicitly recite controlling outputs of the manufacturing process (claim 51) and writing control instructions to a manufacturing unit (claim 52).

It is therefore believed that all of the amended claims now positively exclude algorithms being used in an abstract way for producing an abstract result that may for example exist only on the computer.

Thus the claims are now directed to the technological arts and therefore define statutory subject matter.

A new claim 50 is added that specifies that the manufacturing process is one for the manufacture of semiconductor wafers.

Respectfully submitted,


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